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# The Scott Act in New Brunswick.

The Canada Temperance Act generally known as the Scott Act, is not total prohibition, nor can it be as effective as prohibition would be. Intoxicating liquor may be freely brought into counties in which it is in force, the sale only being illegal. Notwithstanding this serious difficulty, it has accomplished very much good in the part of New Brunswick in which it is in operation.

The Scott Act was carried in ten counties of New Brunswick and in the cities of Portland and Fredericton. One of these counties was St. John, in which is situated the city of St. John, with which the city of Portland is now united. The Scott Act was not carried in St. John city. This interfered seriously with the usefulness of the law in St. John county and Portland. It was repealed in these places, and the whole of St. John county is now under license. The Scott Act is still in operation in the other nine counties, and also in the cities of Fredericton and Moncton which are situated in York and Westmoreland counties respectfully. Moncton was a part of Westmoreland when that county adopted the Act.

### THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

The opinion of the people of the province may to some extent be learned from the voting upon the Scott Act. If we take the figures of the latest voting in those places in which the law is now in force, in some of which several efforts have been made to repeal it we get the following as the number of votes polled :—

| | |
|---|---|
| For the Scott Act | 10,799 |
| Against the Scott Act | 5,721 |

### LESS DRUNKENNESS AND CRIME.

Important evidence relating to New Brunswick is furnished in a document prepared by Mr. George Johnston, Dominion Statistician, in response to a letter from the chairman of the Royal Commission, addressed to the Hon. the Finance Minister, asking for statistics relating to convictions for crime in those parts of the Dominion in which prohibition laws were in operation, and for similar information relating to places not under the operation of such laws. From this report the following paragraphs are taken :—

## THE SCOTT ACT IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

The crime returns for the province of Ontario are made to the statistics branch at Ottawa in accordance with divisions of the country provided by the Provincial Government. The population in 1891 is given according to divisions provided by the Federal authorities. As these two sets of divisions do not coincide, it becomes difficult to designate the Scott Act counties so that comparisons may be made as to the growth of population and other points.

There is, however, in the province of New Brunswick a group of nine counties whose territorial division have remained the same. These nine counties have been under the Scott Act for more than ten years. They are all connected geographically. They contain 61 per cent. of the whole population of the province. They have within their borders several flourishing cities and towns, as Fredericton, Maryville, Woodstock, St. Stephen, Milltown, Chatham, Moncton. They seem in every respect a group fairly representative of the country, in industries, in religious beliefs, in racial and in general conditions.

In respect to crimes the statistics show that in the ten years 1882-91 (both years included) there were 22,841 convictions in the province of New Brunswick. * * * Divided according to Scott Act counties and non-Scott Act counties, there were 8,738 in the nine Scott Act counties and 14,102 in the other counties, or 38·4 per cent. in the nine counties and 61·6 per cent. in the non-Scott Act counties, judged by the criminal statistics. That is to say 61 per cent. of the population had 38½ per cent. of the criminal convictions and 39 per cent. of the population had 61½ per cent. of the crime as indicated by the convictions.

These facts are very forcible. Mr. Johnston might have followed the comparison further. Of the 22,841 convictions, 13,598 were for the offence of drunkenness. Of these 4,986 were in the Scott Act counties, and 8,612 in the counties in which license was in operation. That is to say, sixty-one per cent. of the population (under Scott Act) had thirty-six and one-half per cent. of the convictions for drunkenness, and thirty-nine per cent. of the population (under license) had sixty-three and one-half per cent. of the convictions for drunkenness. These results are summed up briefly in the following table:

| | Population. | Convictions for drunkenness. | Total convictions. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Scott Act counties | 196,422 | 4,986 | 8,738 |
| License counties | 124,841 | 8,612 | 14,102 |

There can be no arrangement made of the figures for drunkenness and other crime in the province of New Brunswick, which will not show that the Scott Act counties as a whole have a record for sobriety and comparative freedom from crime far ahead of the record of those counties in which the liquor traffic is still licensed.

**The Scott Act Does Good.**

**Prohibition will be Effective. Vote for it!**

Issued by the Dominion Alliance for the Suppression of the liquor traffic.

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